

# PENNY-WISE

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## CLUB OFFICIALS

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Chairman: H. Craig Hamling (hcraig@warwick.net)  
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#### **Region 3: Mid-Atlantic** (PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC)

Chairman: Bill Eckberg (halfcent@mac.com)  
Secretary: Brett Dudek (bad\_30\_99@yahoo.com)

#### **Region 4: Southeast** (SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, TN)

Chairman: Bob Grellman (ljefferys@cfl.rr.com)  
Secretary: Don Weathers (P.O. Box 30996, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588)

#### **Region 5: North Central** (MI, OH, KY, IN, IL, WI, MN, IA, NE, SD, ND)

Chairman: Don Valenziano (Don\_Valenziano@yahoo.com; P.O. Box 902, Frankfort, IL 60423)

Secretary: Joe Tomasko (P.O. Box 388386, Chicago, IL 60638)

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Chairman: Russ Butcher (mrbb1794@sbcglobal.net)  
Secretary: Chris McCawley (cmccawley@aol.com)

#### **Region 7: West** (WY, MT, ID, UT, NV, AZ, CA, OR, WA, AK, HI)

Chairman: Bim Gander (bimgander@cox.net)  
Secretary: Randy Snyder (copperhobbie@yahoo.com)

#### **Region 8: Internet**

Chairman: Mark Switzer (region8@eacs.org)  
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**Penny-Wise** has been published every two months since September 1967. Its founding editor was Warren A. Lapp (1915-1993). Harry E. Salyards has served as Editor-in-Chief since 1986. Contributing Editors: Denis W. Loring, John D. Wright. Typing Assistance by Debra Johnson.

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## INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR: CYCLES IN COPPER

Harry E. Salyards

Looking back at 32 years as a collector of early copper, it impresses me how market activity has varied over time. This is brought home by considering a select list of auction sales.

When I first learned of EAC (but didn't yet join: to my regret, now!) in the late winter of 1973-1974, the Naftzger sale had just recently occurred. (The second joint New Netherlands-Seaby auction, November 14-15, 1973.) The first portion of the Charles Ruby sale was about to take place. Spread over three catalogs, with copper in the first and third, it would finally conclude in February 1975. A year later, Stack's Tad sale took place. And then, there was something of a pause--really until the first part of the Garrett collection, in November 1979. And though the late Tom Morley's bids in that sale put the spotlight on copper in a way that hadn't been done before, it was still largely a time of speculation in gold and silver. There wasn't another major public offering of copper just around the corner.

But with "Starr Wars," the copper portion of the late Floyd Starr collection, in the summer of 1984, we were off and running. The six year span between February 1986 and February 1992 saw the Van Cleave, Robbie Brown I, Halpern, Jack Robinson, Tom Matthews, Chalkley, Mendelson, Lee Kuntz, Roger Cohen, and Nicholas (Century) collections sold. It seemed that every time we turned around, another BIG collection was coming up for public offer. Some of this was a matter of time-of-life decisions; but much of it was driven by the explosion in prices realized--this time paralleling what was going on with gold and silver. These were the days when PCGS and NCG were new, Wall Street was in the game, and sight-unseen coin trading was supposedly just around the corner! The sky was the limit. Copper coins that had sold for \$1000 in Robbie I were at five- and six- and ten-grand by the time this string was complete.

There was something of a hiatus, again, between then, and Robbie II, in 1996. Over the next ten years, there were a number of other memorable sales, but they tended to occur more on the order of one every year or two, not multiples per year: the Rasmussen late dates, Frankenfield, Robbie III, Bill Weber, Wally Lee/Doug Smith, the Rasmussen early and middle dates, and finally Jules Reiver, in January of last year. Since then, offerings have been more hit-and-miss: a few notable coppers in *this* sale, a few more in *that*--which reflects both general availability, and economics, I think. Consider those coppers collected as "type." If 1974's thousand-dollar Chain cent, which became a six-thousand dollar Chain cent by 1989, is now a 20-thousand dollar Chain cent, not only has the potential market for that coin shrunk, in terms of the number of collectors who could aspire to own it, but having "scored" it, such a collector is both *more likely* to hold onto it for the long term, and *less likely* to feel compelled to acquire the *other three* collectible die varieties of Chains. And at the other end of the collecting spectrum, less copper goes begging: with hundreds of eagle-eyed attributors unleashed on an ever-shrinking population of unattributed coins, the "cherries" become fewer and farther between by the year.

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE EAC 2007 CONVENTION  
ST. LOUIS, MO -- APRIL 26-29**

R. Tettenhorst

Hotel Reservations

As reported in the November issue, the convention hotel is ready to accept reservations. We have guaranteed a certain number of rooms and negotiated a very favorable \$79 rate per night, so please make sure to mention EAC at the time you make your reservation. ***Please note that the cutoff date for our negotiated rate and block of rooms is March 25, 2007.***

Guests staying overnight at the hotel will receive complimentary self parking (Normally \$5 per day).

Please contact:  
Airport Hilton Hotel  
10330 Natural Bridge Road  
St. Louis, MO 63134  
(314) 426-5500 (direct), or  
(800) 445-8667 (national reservations)

We are all very much looking forward to a great convention and to seeing you in St. Louis.

Bourse

The bourse registration form is again included with this issue. If you have any questions, please contact Don Valenziano at (281) 469-1437.

Wednesday Night Baseball

***We have a limited number of tickets available for the St. Louis Cardinals' game on Wednesday April 25.*** The World Series Champion Cardinals will be playing the Cincinnati Reds at 7 P.M., the evening before the start of the EAC convention. These tickets are available, on a first-come, first-served basis, at \$59 per seat for those who would like to attend. Spouses and significant others are welcome to attend, as well. If interested, please send a check payable to Marsha Birk, at 220 North Fourth Street, Suite A, St. Louis, MO 63102 ***by February 19.*** Be sure to include your mailing address, as the tickets will be mailed directly to you prior to the convention.

**Reservations are required for the complimentary dinner and visit to the Eric Newman Money Museum, on Friday evening April 27.** One of the highlight events for this year's EAC convention is a visit to the Newman Money Museum at Washington University. This will be combined with a complimentary dinner at Whittemore House, which is the faculty club for the University.

The EAC group will be divided into two parts, with one part leaving the hotel for dinner at 5:30

P.M. and the other group going directly to the Museum at that time. At approximately 7:30 P.M., the two groups will switch locations, with second seating for dinner beginning around 7:30 or 8 P.M.

Complimentary bus transportation will be provided both ways, departing from the convention hotel (the Airport Hilton) at 5:30 P.M. and departing to return to the hotel at approximately 9:30 P.M.

However, because precise numbers of attendees need to be known in advance, to make appropriate dinner and transportation arrangements, **it is absolutely essential that everyone desiring to attend advise us no later than March 15, 2007.** The total capacity is limited to 200 attendees, and reservations will be honored in the order received.

Please contact:

R. Tettenhorst at [halfcent@aol.com](mailto:halfcent@aol.com)  
or  
Marsha Birk  
220 North Fourth Street, Suite A  
St. Louis, Mo 63102  
or by fax at  
[\(314\) 331-6507](tel:(314)331-6507)

Please furnish the name or names of those for whom reservations are requested, along with their EAC number(s). Spouses and significant others are welcome to attend. If you have a preference for going to dinner first or to the Museum first, please indicate such in your reservation request.

Tickets will be provided at the convention Friday for those with reservations.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **2006 LARGE CENT HAPPENING**

Dan Trollan

Greetings! This year's EAC 2007 convention in St. Louis will include the 14th annual Large Cent Happening. All members, new and old, are invited to bring their examples of the chosen varieties no matter what grade. Remember that it is not always the high grade examples that win the voting. Die states and other appeal have historically received lots of votes. Also, you are all invited to come look and vote on the entries even if you have no examples to present. The Happening is a great place to meet up with old friends and make some new friends.

The Happening will start right after the Reception on Thursday evening. Please come early if you have coins to show and if you would like to bring them even earlier, **this really helps us.** We can be found in the bourse at the "BOYZ OF '94" table and the coins will be transported safely in a special case.

**Last year's Happening went much more smoothly with Al Boka's help with the entry form and his help at the entry table.**

If you would like to share your coins but do not want them handled please bring a clear holder or Mylar flip and our table monitors will ensure that your coins are properly protected. As before, there will be a sign-up sheet for each coin to be displayed and the coins will have a special place mat for each coin.

The following varieties have been selected for the Happening:

1793 S-14 (Bisecting Crack)	1794 S-65
1796 S-113	1817 N-16 (15 Stars)
1839 N-1 (Over-date)	1844 N-6

Thank-you to all who suggested varieties for this year's Happening: (Denis, Pierre, Jim, John, and Barry) Should be a great turnout. See you there!

\* \* \* \* \*

## **2007 HALF CENT HAPPENING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Bill Eckberg

The varieties are set for the 2007 Half Cent Happening. We will continue the tradition of doing a bicentennial variety, even though there is only one 1807 variety (R1), and it was most recently shown in 2001. Please bring early (strong dentils) and late die states, as we will show them separately. I had several requests on Region 8 for 1826 C2 (R3+). It was last done in 1990, so that one will be on the list as well and should be interesting, as an unusual number of XF-AU examples have turned up recently for such a scarce variety. Among Liberty Caps, the 1794 C9 (R2) was last shown in 1994, so it is about time for that one, and there should be some nice examples on display. The 1795 C3 (R5+ with a condition census down to Very Good) has NEVER been on the list; that should be interesting. Another Draped Bust, the 1804 C9 (R2) has not been shown since 1993 and is quite tough in high grades. The Proof-only date will be 1847 (original and restrike), continuing the 160-year anniversary sequence we have been following since 2000. So, "Meet me in St. Louis" with your half cents!



## JRCS INVITED TO EAC 2007 CONVENTION

Dan Holmes & Brad Karoleff

Below is a notice which appeared in the *John Reich Journal*. It invites JRCS members to attend the 2007 EAC Annual Convention.

The decision to invite JRCS members to attend our annual convention was made by your Executive Committee. This was done after thoroughly discussing the matter at the EAC Meeting held at ANA in Denver on August 18. The meeting attendees strongly favored inviting JRCS to attend our convention and no one opposed the idea.

The members of Early American Coppers, Inc. (EAC) cordially invite the members of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) to attend the EAC 2007 Annual Convention. The convention is being held:

Thursday, April 26 through Sunday, April 29, 2007  
Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel  
10330 Natural Bridge Road  
St. Louis, MO 63134  
314-426-5500

The room rate is \$79 per night plus taxes. The hotel offers shuttle service from the St. Louis airport. Parking is no charge if you are a registered guest.

Thursday the convention officially begins at 5:00 p.m. with a reception followed by three "Happenings" which are show-and-tell sessions for various early coppers: Colonials, Half Cents, and Large Cents.

Friday is a bourse, various seminars, and sale lot viewing. Friday evening is a visit to the new Eric Newman Money Museum and dinner – these two events will require advance reservations.

Saturday is more bourse, seminars and lot viewing. Saturday evening is the EAC private sale. It is in auction format, all copper and about 500 lots. Bidders must be EAC members.

Sunday is the EAC Annual Membership Meeting, lot pick up, more bourse, and travel home.

Bourse tables are available only to EAC members and are awarded on a first come, first served basis. If you want a bourse table and are not an EAC member, you will need to join EAC. This can be done by mailing a check for the annual dues of \$25 to: Rod Burrell, EAC Membership Chairman, 9743 Leacrest Road, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

EAC rules require that the coins on display in the bourse be predominantly early copper. This rule will be modified to permit early silver and gold for JRCS dealers.

There is an exhibit section included on the bourse floor. If any JRCS member is interested in presenting an exhibit they should contact Brad Karoleff.

The primary purposes of the EAC Annual Convention are education and fellowship. An additional purpose is to facilitate the buying, selling and trading of early coppers. The convention is definitely not a “regular” coin show such as the summer ANA or FUN. All in all, it is a very enjoyable long weekend. Come for the whole works or just a day or two. We think you will have fun.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **CALL FOR EXHIBITS – EAC 2007**

This is the first call for exhibits at EAC 2007. Traditionally, EAC has had great exhibits. Let’s continue that tradition in St. Louis. So far, we have one exhibit and are looking for more. If you are thinking about exhibiting, contact me: Steve Carr, 6815 W. 82 St., Overland Park, KS 66204, (913) 383-2568, or email [scarr4002@everestkc.net](mailto:scarr4002@everestkc.net). Let me know the title of your exhibit and the number of cases you will need.

Don’t worry if your coins are not R-8’s or cc level. Don’t worry if they are not choice. All you need to do is show them and make them interesting. You have a captive audience of copper people at EAC! There is not a better group around to appreciate your coppers and their stories.

If you want any particulars about exhibiting, just ask. I have several articles on the topic and can provide exhibit case dimensions.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **GRADING AND COUNTERFEIT DETECTION SEMINAR - EAC 2007**

The “traditional” Grading and Counterfeit Detection Seminar is scheduled at EAC 2006 on Thursday, April 26 from 9 am to noon. This seminar will cover “EAC” grading, the use of copper pricing guides, and spotting counterfeit and altered coppers. Doug Bird and Steve Carr will conduct the seminar. We had good “crowd” last year, so please make reservations early if you plan to attend. I don’t think there is a better way to start an EAC convention than talking coppers with fellow collectors!

If you are interested in attending, contact Steve Carr at (913) 383-2568 or email [scarr4002@everestkc.net](mailto:scarr4002@everestkc.net).

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### **A CALL FOR SEMINARS AND SPEAKERS**

Chuck Heck

Can you believe it? Tett Tettenhorst, Jon Lusk and Don Valenziano are in full swing preparing for the EAC 2007 convention in St. Louis. Hotel details completed, Friday night at the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Museum, the Saturday annual sale --- copper heaven for 2007!!!!



The popular Grading and Counterfeit Detection seminar will be back on Thursday morning April 26. Be sure to sign up early with either Doug Bird or Steve Carr for this seminar. It always fills up quickly and both Doug and Steve hate to turn away interested people.

The April 27 Friday night Educational Forum is taking a different approach by having the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Museum tour instead of a guest speaker. Many thanks to Tett, Jon and Don for suggesting and arranging such an outstanding Friday evening event. This tour promises to be a memorable occasion for this convention and I strongly urge you to read the details covered elsewhere in this issue of *P-W*.

I have several volunteers for the Friday and Saturday daytime seminars, but I still need several more to round out the schedule. Please consider volunteering. The sharing of knowledge is the cornerstone of our conventions and every speaker has told me that it is a rewarding experience. As you will read elsewhere in this issue of *P-W*, the John Reich Collectors Society will be invited to join us to see what our EAC Annual Convention is really like. So let's open another door this year and ask for seminars that deal with the early silver issues from our beloved mint in Philadelphia.

So please remember --- it's time to get your ideas to me. If you have a presentation, speech, demonstration or any seminar, contact me now.

Contact me at: PO Box 3498, Lantana, FL 33465-3498 or 561-582-0113 or CharlesHeck@msn.com.

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### **EARLY AMERICAN COPPER COINAGE COURSE AT THE 2007 ANA SUMMER SEMINAR**

Doug Bird and Steve Carr are offering an Early American Copper Coinage class again this year at the 2007 ANA Summer Seminar. The class will meet the second week (July 2–8) of the seminar. This course covers the basics of early American coppers, including attribution, grading, “restoring,” and storing of coppers. The early minting process and copper literature will also be covered. Work will be done independently and in small groups. Informal discussions are encouraged.

If you would like to spend a week immersed in early American coppers, in Colorado Springs no less, this seminar may be for you. Information and an application form are available from the ANA by mail at 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, by phone (719-632-2646) or on-line at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org).



## NEW CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have applied for membership in EAC since the last issue of *P-W*. Provided that no adverse comments on any particular individuals are received by the membership committee before the March issue of *P-W*, all will be declared elected to full membership at that time. Chairman of the membership committee is Rod Burrell, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

Name	City, State	Member #
Mark P. Boyle	Detroit, MI	5499
Ellwood A. Cutler	Neshanic Sta., NJ	5500
Jamey Price	Canton, MI	5501
Neal G. Herman	New York, NY	5502
John A. Miller	Edgewater Park, NJ	5503
Michael Rementer	Tampa, FL	5504
Henry Abernathy	New York, NY	5505
Robert W. Young	Findlay, OH	5506
Donald Wetzel	Mifflinburg, PA	5507
Robert C. Macchia	West Babylon, NY	5508
Kenneth W. Ploeser	Salem, OR	5509
Douglas L. Head	Thayne, WY	5510
Paul Buehe	Milwaukee, WI	5511
Erin Michael Finney	Salt Lake City, UT	5512
Randall S. Pleoner	Hockessin, DE	5513
Scott Fisher	Asheville, NC	5514
Jean Nauert	Columbia, MO	5515
Robert B. McDonald	Lafayette, IN	5516
Mike Malherek	Caledonia, MN	5517

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## TO MAKE OUT THE BIG CENTS

James Higby

My favorite literary excerpt on the topic of American coppers has to be that of Dr. William Sheldon, wherein he describes spending quality numismatic time with his father on “long winter evenings about the open fire.” According to his story, told in the first chapter of his flagship *Early American Cents* and then in the updated editions of *Penny Whimsy*, after the domestic chores were done, occasionally his father would clear the kitchen table, unlock an old trunk, and take out a cigar box containing about a hundred old copper cents, as well as some reference books and other numismatic paraphernalia. An oil lamp would be lit to illuminate the proceedings. Their objective was to examine and, in his words, “to make out the big cents.”

We learn that, among other books, Sheldon *père* owned a copy of Crosby and a copy of Frossard-Hays, which described the varieties of 1793 and 1794, respectively. Sheldon *files*,

however, does not anywhere indicate that the revered cigar box contained any coins of either of those dates, let alone what varieties they may have identified. In fact, we are left entirely to speculate as to what the treasury actually did serve up in the way of dates and varieties. From his description of the coins, though, it immediately becomes clear that not a single one would have occupied even the trailing end of a condition census. Instead, he describes all the defects and obstacles that had to be overcome to identify the variety of each piece. I daresay that the fabled cigar box must have contained many a scudzy coin!

It also remains a mystery as to who assembled that early Sheldon “collection,” nor do we know where, when, how, or even why it happened to come together. Today we might classify the contents of the box as just “stuff” (some may use a less-charitable word), but for the author it might as well have been gold, as it represented the cement of father-son bonding.

I have often imagined what kind of mixture I would get if I went around to all the dealers at, say, the East Kumquat Annual Coin Show and Bourse and purchased every large cent that was for sale that day, and wondered whether my accumulation would differ substantially from that which so intrigued young William. Assuredly I would end up with more late dates than anything else, and many more lower-grade coins with problems than choice XF pieces. There might be a scarcer variety or two, perhaps an 1807 over large 6, or an 1803 with the large fraction. Likely as not I would end up owning that nearly slick 1794 that the same dealer has had in his case for each of the past twelve shows, and which would defy attribution in spite of the fine references we have even today. I would also probably have to take possession of that corroded large cent, all black and gross, in the 2x2 marked “1799?” Oh, you say you’ve seen it, too? What a coincidence!

The general-interest coin books of the day would have catalogued the “eyesight” varieties of large cents, just as the Redbook still does today. But the difference between S-218 and S-219, for example, was likely not widely known nor cared about in the era of Sheldon’s youth, even though both hosted the famous three-error reverse. Indeed, in the preface to his first edition, Sheldon observes, “I have written this book because ever since childhood I have wanted to read it and it wasn’t there.” We might guess that situation to be the inspiration for many a numismatic book to be written.

Regardless of what we may think about Sheldon’s obsolete works on psychology and human body types, or whether we hold him responsible for the switching of certain ANS coins that came into his custody, we still are all indebted to him for following through with his childhood dream. It is noteworthy that his first edition was published as a general trade title by Harper, a mainline book publisher, and as such would have been available at larger bookstores. Of course, the \$10.00 price on the dust jacket, about four times that of the average hardcover of that era, would have been a cause for hesitation back in the late 1940s, but to copper enthusiasts of the day, the title was a must-have.

As great as was Sheldon’s work on “making out the big cents,” it nevertheless has its shortcomings. The great bulk of the text is just that – text. It is not always clear, for example, what he means by “shielded hair” or “closest date.” Expressions such as “large date” and “small date” are only meaningful if exact measurements are given, or, better yet, a side-by-side visual

comparison is available. Even though there are plates of each variety at the back of the volumes, they are only life-size, and there are no arrows provided to guide us to the pickup points. In fact, to the novice user, the draped bust plates will all look alike, enough so that he might make progress only with difficulty, and might eventually become frustrated to the point of giving up altogether. Nevertheless, *Early American Cents* was a vast improvement over what Sheldon and his father had at their disposal.

The task is magnitudes easier for today's copper collectors. The publication of *United States Large Cents 1793 – 1814* by Bill Noyes in the early 1990s provided Sheldon's same descriptive text, but now accompanied by a photo of a high-grade example of each variety, enlarged to several diameters, one to a page, and with indicators pointing to the pertinent features that differentiate one variety from another. Not too many years later Breen's posthumously-published *Encyclopedia of Early United States Cents 1793-1814* added to the ease with which higher-quality coppers could be identified. The cover prices of both these works are relatively high, again about four times the cost of the average hardcover of today, but like *Early American Cents*, they are welcome and necessary accessories.

There's a catch, though. And where the East Kumquat Hoard is concerned, the catch is the fact that most of the large cents we find for sale at annual club shows are anything but higher-quality, and the attending dealers had other things on their agendas than to spend time counting berries and checking letter and numeral size and placement, at least beyond what is necessary to identify those major, instantly-recognized varieties. Just as were the Sheldons, we would be face-to-face with an anonymous accumulation of coins that are plagued with all the problems that can make attribution so challenging. Just as in the experience of the Sheldons, and much to our dismay, we may never know the truth about that 1794 or that "1799?" In spite of this, though, we relish the experience of sitting down with our own cigar box full of coins, pretending that it is a century ago, carefully trimming the wick of our oil lamp, and trying to "make out the big cents."

\* \* \* \* \*

## MAKING SENSE

John D. Wright

This year starts us off with a new President, a burning zeal, and a dangerous path. Let's see how soon you can tell the year.

The British army embarks on the conquest of Kashmir and the Punjab in India.

British Arctic explorer Sir John Franklin sails in May with two ships, 134 men, and provisions for three years in yet another quest for the Northwest Passage, through the edges of the Arctic Ocean from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Lured by unusually good weather, he ventures far up a new channel until his ships become icebound. All hands are lost, and over forty expeditions will be launched over the next century and a half to find them or traces of their passage. Later research proves that a few survived at least six Arctic winters before disappearing into the eternal snows.

The worst ever of over twenty large-scale failures of the potato crop hits Ireland this year. Tens of thousands emigrate to the United States, and one in six of these do not survive the voyage.

The German political philosopher Karl Marx is expelled from France this year and settles in Brussels, Belgium.

Alexandre Dumas continues his publishing success this year with *Le Comte de Monte Cristo*.

Edgar Allan Poe publishes a book simply titled *Tales*, which contains several of his more famous stories. A bit later in the same year, he publishes *The Raven and Other Poems*. Despite the success of these (his eighth and ninth books), Poe's magazine *Broadway Journal* fails this year and ceases publication.

Two well-known enduring publications begin this year: *Scientific American* and *Police Gazette*.

Three prestigious schools are chartered this year: Baylor University in the new Texas Territory, the State University of New York at Albany, and the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. The formal opening of the USNA is overseen by Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft. Today, Bancroft Hall houses the residence and dining for all 5,000 midshipmen.

The first baseball club is formed this year as "The Knickerbockers" of New York City. Alexander Cartright, a New York firefighter, has formalized a set of rules for the game, including four bases set 90 feet apart with the pitcher in the center and the batter at home base. "Plugging" a runner (outing him with a thrown ball) is outlawed. Many more clubs will form over the next few years, all adopting Cartright's rules for the game.

A new settlement is begun in Oregon Territory near the junction of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Two New Englanders agree to decide the name of the new settlement based on the flip of a coin. Boston loses and Portland wins. But for a coin-flip, it would now be Boston, Oregon.

James Knox Polk is sworn in as the eleventh U.S. President. He strongly supports U.S. expansion westward.

The term "manifest destiny" is coined in the U.S. press this year, claiming the Oregon Territory "by right of our Manifest Destiny to overspread and to possess the whole of the continent." This verbalizes the current U.S. expansionist sentiment, which includes stronger claims on the Pacific Northwest (risking war with Britain), subjugation or elimination of Native populations (risking Indian wars), annexation of Texas (risking a Mexican war), and acquisition of the lands west of Texas to the ocean (which are Mexican lands). The cry "fifty-four forty or fight" claims the northern boundary of the disputed Oregon Territory up to the edge of Russian

Alaska. This boundary will be set next year by peaceful treaty at forty-nine degrees North latitude, almost 400 miles south of the original “or fight” line.

Mexico has never recognized the independence of Texas and has threatened war if the U.S. attempts to annex that territory. This year the U.S. and the Republic of Texas sign a “Joint Resolution on Texas Annexation,” declaring Texas as a U.S. Territory. The “Texas Annexation Treaty” was signed last year, but it failed to gain the two-thirds Senate support needed due to anti-slavery opposition. It was then re-introduced as a “joint resolution” which needs only fifty percent support, and is passed this year. Before this year ends, Texas will become the 28th state, following Florida by nine months. The U.S. commits to protect Texas’ borders, and Texas reserves the right to subdivide into as many as four states.

John Slidell is dispatched to Mexico City to negotiate the purchase of New Mexico and California for thirty million dollars in exchange for Mexico’s relinquishing all claims to Texas, but Mexico severs diplomatic ties with the U.S. and refuses an audience to Slidell.

The year is 1845, and the times are perilous indeed. This year the three United States Mints again strike nine-or-ten denominations of coins in three metals. The “nine-or-ten” number begs the question, “Were ANY of the handful of Proof-only 1845 half cents actually struck in 1845?” The “three mints” absents Charlotte, which was disabled from the fire last year and will not be back in production until late next year. As in previous years, coinage in copper and silver is the bulk of production, with fewer than three quarters of a million gold coins struck this year.

Nothing is really remarkable about any of the coinage of 1845. In an attempt to generate or sustain interest in an otherwise boring year, collectors must resort to doublings on date digits or mint marks. Fortunately, these abound throughout the 1844 – 1849 period. But most collectors of a denomination content themselves with filling a single hole for this year, maybe two for the dime, half dollar, or eagle, or up to three for the quarter eagle or half eagle. The historic events of this year are FAR more fascinating than the coins bearing this date.

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# SOLUTION TO THE CROSSWORD PUBLISHED IN MAY, 2006

Charlie Barasch

A	N	N	I	E		S	P	Y		F	L	A	R	E
R	A	I	N	Y		H	O	E		R	O	L	E	X
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P	E	S	A	C	H		N	C	O	S		A	I	M
			W	R	E	A	T	H	S	C	E	N	T	S
A	D	S		E	E	L			A	A	A			
C	U	E	V	A	R	I	E	T	Y		G	A	S	P
T	O	T	E	M		A	S	H		P	E	R	E	S
V	S	I	X		T	R	E	E	E	R	R	O	R	S
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S	T	A	R	R	R	E	V	E	R	S	E			
A	E	F		A	N	N	I		O	P	T	I	M	O
K	L	U	T	Z		F	A	L	L	E	N	F	O	R
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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*Pete Smith* writes,

Item 1: I enjoyed the articles on the edge lettering of half cents in the November issue of *Penny-Wise*. I want to comment on the discussion of workmen choosing the alignment of planchets as they placed them between dies for striking. I believe there is another issue that has not been discussed.

What did a planchet look like after it passed through the Castaing machine? I am not aware of any surviving unstruck planchets from that era so we probably don't know. Initially I visualized them as having an upset rim on both sides similar to known unstruck planchets from later eras. Perhaps this was not the case.

In the operation of the Castaing machine, a blank was placed on the flat base and run between a fixed die and a movable die with each die containing half of the edge lettering. If the process created a raised rim on the underside of this blank, the blank would rise in the space between the two dies and probably wobble. It would be very difficult to produce straight lettering on the edge and match the last letters from one die with the first letters from the other.

If I ran the Castaing machine, I would want the blanks to remain flat as they passed between the edge dies. I would design a slight bevel into these dies to force the blank to remain flat. If a ridge formed, I would want this ridge to be on the top of the blank.

We believe that a raised rim helped to fill the denticles for coins struck in a collar. I don't know what the effect would be for earlier coinage struck without a collar. Perhaps a raised rim was a consequence of edge lettering but not required for a good die impression.

If a Mint workman had a bucket of planchets with rims on one side only, or even with one side with a heavier rim than the other, they might choose to place the flatter side into the lower die. They would not need to read the edge lettering or even be aware that their decision affected the direction we now see on edge lettering.

Discussion of random selection is valid only if both sides of the planchet are identical. Any small difference could lead to intentional or unintentional selection of one side over the other. I don't know if there is any merit to my suggestion. However, I believe the possibility of such differences should be considered.

Item 2: I notice that William W. Sheldon is proposed as a new member. I have a request for Mr. Sheldon. Please write an article or letter to the Editor about yourself. Let us know if you are related to any other William Sheldon. Did his name have any influence on your interest in early copper? Inquiring minds want to know.

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## FROM THE INTERNET

Gene Anderson

### New Members

Joining since our last report are **Mike Spurlock, Ronny Blackstock, Doug Flynn, Hank Abernathy, Jamey Price, Ken Lucas, Erin Michael Finney, Barry Abrahams, and Mike Rementer**. Region 8 now has 396 members.

### Inquiring Minds

James Rehmus wrote regarding the 1818 N7 described and imaged by **Robert Dunfield**. He thinks the reverse lettering looks to be a rather neat alteration. There are no die flow lines or the centrifugal spread of the letters that you see with last use of a die. In addition, not all of the letters are affected: the U, S, O, and C have no concomitant change because they have no straight vertical element and no feet. It looks as if it was a pretty attempt to give the coin a unique font. It is quite cool really. Try a 20-power magnification to see the pentimenti of the alteration. This was a great curiosity and worth sharing. **Nic Forster** responded to Robert by saying that the wavy serifs Robert mentioned were also found on his 1824 N3 but only from the OF on the reverse. **Bill Eckberg** said he had noticed the effect described by Robert on early coppers, but generally on 18<sup>th</sup> century coins. He had never seen it on a coin as recent as 1818. It would be interesting to hear an explanation from an expert in obsolete Mint technology. **Kim Greeman** thinks the wavy and irregular serifs are indicative of a counterfeit coin rather than a die distortion. **Randy Snyder** responded to Robert by saying that when a coin is struck the planchet expands outward, more so near the edge than in the center. Incomplete filling of the die by the coin metal during this outward expansion causes the bottoms of the lettering to have hollow spots giving them the appearance of wavy feet. This is a STRIKE effect that is more common on early date cents than those made since 1816 due to the use of a closed collar to restrain the expanding planchet. The effect of stars or lettering drawn to the rim is caused by die wear. This die wear is the result of the friction caused as the planchet expands outward and is a DIE STATE. **James Higby** says that the phenomenon noted by Robert on the lettering of his 1818 N7 is called bifurcation. There is a discussion of this in John B. Haugh's introductory material to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Bolender. It seems that Jules Reiver attributed it to a strong strike, while Q. David Bowers blames weakness of strike. Haugh suggests that further study is needed. **George Edwards** noted that the wavy serfs Robert refers to are common on Bust Halves. **Robert Dunfield** replied saying thanks for all the contributions to the wavy serifs discussion. Robert has now begun to assemble the various works by noted numismatists that deal with this phenomenon. Hopefully there will be enough material to support an article for *Penny-Wise*. Robert thanked Nic Forster for the preliminary research and identification of early and middle dates from selected sales and auctions that exhibit bifurcation. The term "bifurcation" is from the Latin "bifurcare" meaning to split or fork into two. It is used to identify the body of a single item having split into two with the implication that this term is a conveyance or pathway such as a stream with tributaries. It may also be said that a pair of trousers is bifurcated and there are specific applications for it in the field of mathematics and physics. Does this term accurately describe this phenomenon from a numismatic perspective? **Doug Durasoff** said he is a little

concerned about this wavy serifs discussion. He says before we start consecrating it with terminology, have we fully considered what I all along have thought to be the case--that this phenomenon is simply another example of post mint re-engraving, or simply “noodling” around with the metal. He sees nothing in the photo to support flow lines or any such mint process. The wavy serifs are sharp not flowed and only appear on part of the circumference. Did the re-engraver get interested in something else? **Robert Dunfield** replied to Doug’s comments by saying that there are literally hundreds of large cents that exhibit this phenomenon, at least to some degree, but he would invite Doug and others to take a look through Noyes’ United States Large Cents 1793-1814 Volume 1. The plate coin for 1793 S2 (20047) has some of the most significant offset bifurcation found on the early cents. The 1793 S1 has it as well and indeed there are many of the finest cents with impeccable pedigrees plated in this book alone that show bifurcation and in many cases, dramatically. I doubt that any of these cents have been the subject of post mint re-engraving or “noodling” around with the metal. Preliminary research by Nic Forster shows that there are literally hundreds of examples from major auctions, including EAC events. I have found literally hundreds more unquestionably original large cents with significant offset to the letters in the reverse legends, including many of the cents plated in Sheldon’s Early American Cents. The focus of this research will be large cents, but the phenomenon may also be identified in Bolender and Overton. That it exists as part of the normal minting of early coinage is without question in Robert’s opinion. How and why it happens is the subject of continuing research and this discussion. Have any EAC members found this phenomenon on any cents in their personal collections? If so, contact Robert.

**Randy Snyder**, after listening to the comments of others, decided to take another run at wavy feet AKA bifurcation. In understanding the effect of incomplete striking one must understand that all variables must be taken into account. While strong or weak strike do play roles in the finished product so does die shape which usually is convex but is sometimes flat to concave. Also, the relief cut into the dies that allows for metal flow, the shape, material, & thickness of the blank, and the overall relief provided by the coining chamber, i.e. collar distance or no collar, must be considered. All of these factors come together at the instant a coin is struck. To draw a mental picture, imagine a pair of slightly convex dies compressing a blank. In the beginning of the strike the central area of the coin fields begin to form first. As the strike continues, the pressure forces the coin metal into the recesses of the dies and causes excess metal to expand outward as the dies continue the stroke forming the outer areas of the coin last. So, if the outward movement of the coin metal caused by this expansion exceeds the downward movement of the hammer die then some areas of the dies will not be filled properly. The coin metal can slide past the relief cut into the dies during the strike and we get wavy feet. It is the relief provided by the upright of the letter that prevents the bottom edge of the letter from forming as the upright plays the role of least resistance. The serifs are partially formed because the top of the serif acts like a dam stopping the metal as it tries to escape. If there were no restraining collar then increasing the pressure could make the effect more exaggerated as the coin metal would expand further. See modern examples of broad struck coins. The art of coining then was not only dependent on engraving and pressure but also to create a good fit between the dies and the blanks. But, if there is a restraining or striking collar then the outward expansion is halted and sliding past the relief is reduced or eliminated. Increasing the pressure would then provide a better strike. So, is “bifurcation” an accurate term to use describing the effect? No, although it does describe what is observed on moderately poorly struck coins, *it only describes the effect on the feet and serifs of*

*lettering that are perpendicular to the metal flow of the planchet. Bifurcation does not describe the same effect on letters that are rounded at the bottom such as O or S that can show thinning and beveling, nor does it describe the effect on the leading edge of the dentils which can appear beveled and, in the case of no-collar strikes, elongated.* (Editorial emphasis added--HES) Randy has pictures of a Gallery Mint '93 cap with bifurcated LIBERTY, as struck. The letters were not cut that way. There is also a circa 1837 Moffet Hard Times Token with the same effect causing even the rounded letters to be thin in addition to the slip strike bifurcation of the flat letters. The observant will notice the deformation on the Moffet piece on the inboard side no matter how the letters are oriented. See the EAC website for the pictures. **James Rehmus** would like to second Doug Durasoff's assertion about the Dunfield coin. It looks like an alteration to him. **Craig Hamling** said that Randy's pictures clearly show the bifurcation effect. When this was first brought up, he reasoned that weaker strikes might show this effect more than stronger strikes. As most collectors of limited scope that do not want weak strikes in his collection, Craig checked his 1829 and 1830 small letter reverse cents which showed some blunt striking on both sides. The 1829 was unremarkable but the 1830 N6 was crazy! Not with bifurcations, which are there in a minor degree, but with raised bars on the tops of most of the letters of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. There is also a bar on the top of the cross stroke of the second S in STATES. The example shown in Wright's *The Cent Book*, which is also struck bluntly, shows this effect as well. See Craig's coin on the EAC website. Any other blunt struck coins that show this bar effect?

**Larry Taylor** has been using the Grellman/Reiver book (1987 first edition) to attribute his late date cents along with an auction company's archive photos. He is having problems with an 1853 that does not appear to match the attribution guide descriptions. The coin appears to have all the die polishing lines on the obverse that the attribution guide describes for an N24 but does appear to have a thin rim die break on the obverse starting near star 9 and ending with a small rim cud at star 11. On the reverse, none of the points mentioned in the attribution guide (with the possible exception of the low spots between Cent and the wreath) are there, even under a 17X loupe. Larry's biggest problem is that the 4<sup>th</sup> date reference number on the coin is definitely a position 7 while the attribution guide show the 4<sup>th</sup> date reference number at position 8 for the 1853 N24. Can someone provide guidance on whether the date positions change as the die gets into later states? **Phyllis Thompson** says in regard to the date position "switch" for late date cents, she asked Bob Grellman the same question albeit a different date and N number. Bob told her that die states do matter in alignment. Phyllis is sure Bob would be happy to look at Larry's coin.

**Bill Maryott** notes that holed large cents are common. He is aware of the old policy of nailing a coin to the house to provide good luck. This is evident by many coins with square nail holes near the center. Bill is intrigued by the coins with one hole near the perimeter, as this seems to be the most prevalent condition. He assumes the coins were normally strung and perhaps worn around the neck. Does anyone know specifically why this practice was done? **Ron Tagny** replied with one possible explanation for holed large cents. During the Civil War, Northern anti-war Democrats and pro-Confederates were labeled with the derogatory term "Copperheads" i.e., snakes. They, in turn, took the appellation as a badge of honor and began to show their colors by wearing copperheads in the fashion of carved or holed large cents. Bill replied that it's always nice to get other opinions on his questions. He found more information on Copperheads on the web.

**Mike Grogan** recently purchased an 1837 large cent because of the odd feature at the bottom of the reverse. The seller described it as a planchet problem. He wonders if it could be some sort of a striking error. Does anyone have other ideas? You can see the cent in the members only section of the EAC website.

**Hank Abernathy** has been trying to attribute the large cents he inherited from his father using Breen and Newcomb. He is baffled in some cases. Can members suggest other resources for him to try? **James Rehums** responding to these comments said that Breen and Newcomb should be set aside in favor of Noyes, Wright, Grellman, and Manley (for half cents). The photos and information are better. Low-grade coins can still be tough to attribute, especially the late dates.

**Dan Bailey** has what appears to be an 1802 S229 in an ICG holder that looks to have had its authenticity tested by slightly filing its rim. It's hard to tell, but he thinks he sees silver peaking through. Is this variety known to be counterfeited? There is no guarantee of authenticity with this slab.

**Stan Henneman** says he has an S172 with very fine details on both sides however there is a fine overcoat of rust completely covering both sides. Is there any type of solution or oil that can remove this rust?

#### Member Comments

William Simonsen, talking about the 1804 C 6 mentioned by Roxanne Himmelstein in our last report, thought the coin was a die state 11.0, which is the second most common state. He also stated that die state 12 is very rare and die state 9.5 is very scarce. William also gave some recent auction prices for these coins.

**Stu Schrier** responded to Al Brandon's question in our last report about how common was doubling for the 1828 half cent. Stu had the same question about doubling on an 1806 half cent. His coin has pronounced doubling on the reverse with none on the obverse. He receives many interesting replies in Region 8, which Al should review. What Stu understands from the responses is that the coin may have been a brockage maker. It may have been struck once on the obverse with another coin also in the press at the same time so it received no impression on the reverse. When it was ejected, it was put through a second time and coincidentally the second strike was close to the first. Or the coin may have remained in the press when the other coin was ejected and received a second strike very close to the first strike. One thing that is certain is that there is no know double die on the 1828 half cent 13 star variety. The doubling you see is clearly there but does not seem to add a great deal to the value of the coin. The value comes from how far the second strike is off from the first strike. Some have called this die bounce or die chatter if the die was loose in the press. **Bill Eckberg** said Al's coin appears to have strike doubling, giving it a double profile effect. Minor doubling like this is relatively common and generally has little or no impact on the value of the coin.

**Brett Dudek** reported on a Region 3 meeting held at the Virginia Numismatic Association show.

**Craig Hamling** stated that he is pleased to post coin pictures on the EAC website and provide a link to them. Please be sure that you are not breaking any copyright laws when you send him pictures. Also, in anticipation of automating the maintenance and presentation of the Region 8 membership list, members who no longer maintain an email address have been dropped from Region 8 membership. EAC by-laws state that any current EAC member who provides an email address can be a member of Region 8. This will be interpreted as requiring the provision of a valid and active email address.

**Tom Deck** has completed a web page that displays each large cent in his collection. The link is [www.largecents.net/collecton/photoindex.html](http://www.largecents.net/collecton/photoindex.html) . If anyone has a similar page, let Tom know and he will post a link to that page from his page. **Al Boka** said he really enjoyed Tom's presentation of his collection. It was very well arranged. Likewise, **Richard Simonetti** thanked Tom saying it was a pleasure to review and study the coins.

**Craig Hamling** reported making his third presentation to the Roxbury, N.J. coin club. Based on that presentation, **Michael Fey** purchased a wonderfully detailed large cent pie crimp (or maybe a gear) at a Baltimore show and later a gear made from an 1843 large cent. **Kim Greeman** says she is not sure why Michael's two gear cut large cents were made. Both seem to need a center hole to be useful. Kim has two ex-working large cents that are center-holed and used for washers. Years ago she saw one used to hold the bit in a brace & bit. **Stu Schrier** wonders if there is a way to tell contemporary modifications from recent copies of contemporary modifications. The same problem exists with hobo nickels and racketeer nickels. The authentic racketeer nickels were not only gold plated, but they were also reeded. In addition, the gold plating was applied to uncirculated coins. So when you see a well worn coin 1883 "No Cents" Liberty Nickel with gold plating and no reeding in VG condition and no worn spots in the gold plating, you know that the gold plating was not likely done in 1883. There are many people making modern hobo nickels who are far from hobos. Stu expressed concern about the lack of center holes in Michael's altered coins. Michael responded that he could not be sure that the coins were not contemporary alterations. He did note that examining the coins under a 10X magnifier showed the inside of the teeth to having toning consistent with the remainder of the coin. He too wonders about the lack of a center hole. **Gary Rosner** sent in some pictures of an 1825 N5 that has been made into some kind of gear. See the members only section of the EAC website. **Erin Michael Finney** also sent some pictures to the website of a cent transformed into some kind of gear.

Howard Aubin wrote that Bill Eckberg wrote a great article on the Cohen 5 1809 half cent. Howard recently purchased an XF45 example from a former EAC member. The envelope had the name Elliott Goldman and date 12-20-84 on it. It has two lines between the ball and the loop of the 9. Howard really has a hard time believing that it this is a 9 over an inverted 9 (or 6) based on the shape of the under-figure. The portion of the under-figure to the right lower side of the 9 resembles the under-figure on the 1849/8 N8 large cent. Part of Howard's job requires some reshaping of steel in a small way. He swedges and files saw teeth. When reshaping the teeth, metal moves in to fill in gaps. Howard has wondered for some time if when punching the digits into the die, if not punched over the same spot, would the metal shift into the depressions created from the earlier punches, thus distorting the shape of the under-figure. The metal being pushed aside when the digit is punched into the die has to go someplace, and if it is punched over

another previously punched digit, it most likely will go to the path of least resistance and fill in part of that under-figure. Multiple punches could create a raised area of metal between two or more lines if the raised area was pushed part of the way across the under-figure. When describing a raised area, in this case, I am talking about an area about the same level as the field of the coin. The width of the under-figure and over-figure would also determine how far the metal could move. For example, the bottom and top of the O is usually narrower than the sides so less metal is pushed aside when striking the top and bottom than what is pushed aside by the sides. The narrower portions would also fill in more quickly. If striking over a different figure, the wider portions of the over-figure would more quickly fill in narrower areas of the under-figure. The lower east side of the 9 is narrow compared to the lower east side of an 8. If the under-figure was an 8, the under-punched 8 would have moved more metal aside in that area of the digit than the over-punched 9 could have filled in thus leaving evidence of the under-digit in that area. The mere striking over the under-figure will distort the shape of that under-figure. So, the shape of the under-figure might not match the 6, 8, or 9 punch used to create it. Many people think of the shape of the digits as symbols written on paper or in books. The shape takes upon a certain form. Try looking at the punches as chisels in the shape of digits. The shape of the cutting edge will determine how the metal moves. (Editor's note: an intriguing discussion. There's also a third dimension to any under-figure, which may be pushed deeper into the die, and therefore raised higher on the struck coin. An 1855/4 half dollar in my collection illustrates this, with traces of the original 54 literally on top of the 55.)

**Bill Maryott** reported on something that could have been reported under the "I'm not making this up" heading. Two veteran (35 years +) eBay sellers (with impeccable credentials and feedback) have formed their own grading firm so "you can be confident they have graded it correctly". Maybe not. The pair has listed a 1794 large cent in G4 condition by Bill's reckoning as guaranteed to be a F12. Bill pointed out how this serves as a good demonstration on why learning to grade correctly is so important. **Mike Schmidt** added that this is the fourth grading service this pair has been involved with and the second one that was "in house." **Richard Nelson** noted that these guys boast "Reality Graded (c) raw coins" which implies a copyrighted grading system. Who then can dispute if the coin is "graded"? Richard pointed out other misleading conduct by this "grading service," and noted that Bill was correct about learning to grade for yourself. **Howard Aubin** noted that EAC grading requires both grade and condition. None of the slabbing companies use EAC standards. Those companies that list a grade and condition still lack a net grade. Howard feels that EAC as an organization should advocate to the different pricing guides, grading guides, and slabbing companies that they grade by a standard that includes grade, condition, and net grade, plus have pricing guides include numerous varieties that are not listed, along with some kind of warning to readers about the importance of condition along with the grade. The hobby is hungry for this type of outreach. Because EAC is the expert organization, we should be doing more. There are many new collectors in the hobby. We can fear their presence and hunger for knowledge or use it to shape the hobby and to develop standards that reflect the reality of the hobby. Coppers make up the foundation of the hobby. As the experts of this foundation, we should be shaping the structure. It is not unreasonable to request that the major slabbing companies start properly describing the coppers that they slab. The minor slabbing companies will mimic them. It is not unreasonable to request that the Red Book list more varieties. Other pricing guides will follow. **Denis Loring** pointed out that EAC has developed a significant amount of material for new and prospective EAC members.

Additionally, EAC members usually try and “spread the word” in their dealings with non-specialists. Coppers may have been the foundation of the hobby 150 years ago, but now they’re a very small part of the numismatic market. Most dealers don’t stock much copper and really aren’t that interested in it. The major slab services couldn’t care less what EAC thinks of its standards. EAC grading is technical: this coin grades VF20 and is therefore worth \$1,000. Slabbers use market grading: this coin should trade for \$1,000 and is therefore graded VF20. A small example: as the market for the major trophy coins has skyrocketed, in just a few years one 1804 dollar has improved from XF45 to AU58. Denis is not sure if it’s still the case, but it used to be that Morgan dollars alone made up more than half of the coins submitted for third-party grading. He seems to recall reading that now Morgan and Peace dollars and 21<sup>st</sup> century wonder coins (state quarters and golden buffalos in Mint State 68, 69, and 70 for example) make up more than 80% of submissions. Early copper makes up a tiny little corner of the slab market, and the slabbers aren’t going to waste their time and energy on it. EAC members (**Mark Borckardt, Bob Grellman, John Kraljevich, Chris Victor-McCawley, Tony Terranova, and Denis Loring**) have worked with Ken Bressett for decades in continually revising and updating the Red Book listings. There is a constant battle for space, as the specialists in each series would like to see their treasures more prominently featured. Ken has always treated us well. **Alan Gorski** said that regardless of the slab grade, the bottom line is how much are you willing to pay for the coin. Grade generally refers to physical wear (loss of detail) and condition is a function of surface properties such as color, dings, scrapes, etc. Whenever Alan examines a coin, he totally ignores the seller’s grade. He realizes that someone that is new to coin collecting will go through a learning curve and will probably buy a few over priced coins. Everybody has that experience. For some reason the coins look better on the felt pad at the dealer’s table than they do when looked at again at home. It must be the excitement and adrenaline rush you get when you find that coin you’ve been looking for. Nevertheless, everyone grades differently and eye appeal is subjective and a matter of personal taste. This is very apparent at Half Cent Happenings. Some people favor color, some surface smoothness, some like detail, etc. Alan admits that he has generally been in agreement with the grades given to the coppers in the EAC auction. Look at a lot of coins. See what they sell for. Give it your best shot. **Bill Eckberg** says please do not suggest that EAC try to educate any grading service. The coin market is unregulated. Dealers can ask anything they want for any coin they want to sell. They and we can grade them any way we want. EAC cannot impose its will on any grading service, and there is no reason we should try. They grade by different standards than we use. When a slab company says a coin grades MS63, they don’t mean that it is uncirculated. They mean they think it is worth what the slightly-better-than-average uncirculated coin of the variety generally brings in the marketplace. This is called “market grading.” EAC grading is also a kind of market grading, but it uses very different and much more complicated standards. It generally arrives at a very different net grade than the grading services. That said, the coin would probably trade at the same price whether we call it an EAC VF20 average or an XYZ slabbed EF 45. The key is knowledge. We must all learn to understand the differences in grading standards. In the same way, we all have to learn that an MS 65 graded by XYZ (reputable grading service) will price differently from an MS65 grad by FGS (Fool’s Grading Service), which is unreliable. People who pay EAC prices for a coin graded by a grading service is making a bad choice. Dealers may try to charge EAC prices for XYZ graded coins because they want to make as much money as possible off each coin. As a dealer/friend/EAC member once told Bill at a Baltimore show, “99% of the dealers in this room will bury you up to your neck in a coin and then steal your shovel.” There is no “Official Grade”

for any coin. Even the best grading services have coins cracked out and upgraded. Within EAC there are differences of opinion on the grade/value of individual coins. We collectors are the final arbiters of the value of coins offered to us. If you don't think a coin offered isn't worth the price, negotiate or don't buy it. If you know what you are doing, you won't ever pay an EAC 45 price for an EAC 20 coin no matter who graded it.

**James Rehmus** pointed out how valuable sharing information about eBay and other internet store warnings was to the membership.

**Mark Hooten** pointed out a link to an interesting discussion on the S277 large cent taking place on a chat board while **Roy Pollitt** has been inspired by all of the recent talk about half cents to start collecting them.

**Gerald Buckmaster** as part of his ongoing research and study of early die state 1800 half cents weighed all of his 1800 half cents. Much to his surprise, one Manley 1.0 specimen weighed a whopping 95.5 grains. He had always thought that early die states were usually underweight with the exception of the B&M 1996 Eliasberg lot # 413 that weighed 84 grains. Gerald's half cents range from AG to G and weighed as follows: M1 78.8 grains, M1 95.5 grains, M2 79.5 grains, M2 81.1 grains, M2 81.7 grains, M2 84.2 grains, and M2 85.5 grains. Breen stated in his encyclopedia that there were two types of planchets used for 1797 backdated issues of Spring 1800-all spoiled cents. He goes on to describe a thin planchet (73.3 to 78.4 grains) and a thicker planchet (93 to 97 grains). The 95.5 grain 1800 M1.0 is visibly much thicker than the 78.8 grain M1.0 that has visible large cent under type as well as all the other M2.0 coins. It had never occurred to Gerald that you could find thin and thick examples of early die state 1800 half cents. Does anyone have a census of thick 1800 early die state half cents? Ron Manley replied that most early die state C1 half cent (M1.0 and M2.0) specimens are believed to have been struck on cut down spoiled large cents. The well known exception is the Eliasberg coin mentioned. If these were not adequately rolled down, they would, of course, make heavy half cents. Ron's M1.0 specimen (the Brobston 'Libekty' coin) weighs 87.6 grains. Ron owns a M2.0 specimen that weighs 87.1 grains. They are a bit heavy but nothing to write home about. Gerald's 95.5 grain coin is the heaviest specimen that Ron can recall hearing about and therefore a real find. M1.0 specimens are much rarer than M2.0 specimens.

#### 90 Half Cent Varieties Club

**Mark Hays** writes with good news. The club achievement medal may yet be produced. He was contacted by the entity that recently acquired the minting operations of the Gallery Mint. They plan to reestablish operations under a new name and specialize in striking medals using dies produced from the existing GMM hub inventory. It appears new reproductions are not part of their new business plan. They were quite eager to honor Mark's order so it appears all is back on track. Mark will keep everyone informed as more information becomes available.

#### Stolen Coin Alert



A glossy XF plus 1793 half cent that was sold last May in the Goldberg Coins & Collectibles Auction was stolen from the U.S. mail. The coin will make it back to the market place at some point. Please report any sighting.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SWAPS AND SALES

EAC'ers are invited to submit their ads for inclusion in this column. Ads up to twelve lines are free. ADS LARGER THAN 12 LINES MUST BE SUBMITTED CAMERA-READY, AND PAID IN ADVANCE. Due to increased production costs, effective immediately, a full page ad is \$100. Graphic and halftone setup is an *additional* \$60 per page. One third page is \$35. Ads should be limited to early American Coppers or tokens. Deadline for material to appear in the March 2007, issue is February 28, 2007. All ads must include the individual membership number of a current member in good standing. Copy should be sent to the Editor, Harry E. Salyards, 606 North Minnesota Avenue, Hastings, NE 68901.

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### JOHN D. WRIGHT, EAC #7

What others think of "The CENT Book":

MARK KLEIN: The CENT Book is all I'd dreamed it could be and more. Reading it is like enjoying a personal chat with John.

RICHARD STRILEY: Being a novice on large cents I found a number of other books confusing and hard to read. I have Adams, Breen, Grellman, Newcomb, Noyes, and Sheldon, but yours is the best.

JULES REIVER: Your book is wonderful. This is the first coin book I have ever seen which can be used to attribute coins without having my coins available for checking. Your pictures are so sharp that they make attributing an absolute pleasure.

SEE FOR YOURSELF – BUY YOUR OWN. See "The CENT Book" ad in this section.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CHARLES DAVIS, EAC #142**

P.O. Box 547

Wenham, MA 01984

Sole distributor for United States Large Cents by William Noyes.

Volume I (1793-1814) and Volume II (1816-1839)

\$240 postpaid.

Volume I not available separately. Volume II only

\$85 postpaid.

Encyclopedia of U.S. Large Cents S-1 to S-91

\$65 postpaid.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MABEL ANN WRIGHT, EAC #78**

What others think of "The CENT Book":

WARREN LAPP: I can see now why it took so long to get it into print. John didn't leave out a thing. I am amazed at the photos. The book is perfect in every way, which is what I would expect from JDW.

HERB SILBERMAN: Your book is beautiful! I congratulate you on the content.

TONY CARLOTTO: The CENT Book is fantastic. The year-by-year history is a very nice touch and keeps you reading.

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\* \* \* \* \*

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**ALLAN DAVISSON, EAC #3299**

Cold Spring, MN 56320 (our complete address)

(320) 685-3935

fax (320) 685-8636

[coins@davissons.net](mailto:coins@davissons.net)

\* \* \* \* \*

**BILL McKIVOR, EAC #4180**

P.O.Box 46135

Seattle, WA 98146

[Bmckivor@juno.com](mailto:Bmckivor@juno.com) or [Copperman@Thecoppercorner.com](mailto:Copperman@Thecoppercorner.com)

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**RON GUTH, EAC #444**

P.O. Box 900

LaJolla, CA 92038

For FREE information about U.S. Copper Coins (including Colonials, Half Cents, and Large Cents), please visit the CoinFacts web site at [www.coinfacts.com](http://www.coinfacts.com). Our goal (lofty as it may seem) is to illustrate and describe every known variety of every U.S. coin. Use the site as a FREE resource and if you have images or information to contribute, I'd love to hear from you.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ROD BURRESS, EAC #109**

9743 Leacrest  
(513) 771-0696

Cincinnati, OH 45215

For Sale: #4 Soft Jeweler's Brush \$8.50 each.  
Jeweler's Tissue, 4 x 4 inch sheets: box of 1000, \$7.50; package of 250, \$2.50.  
Xylol, 4 oz. bottle, plus 100 wooden stick Q-tips \$4.00  
Acetone, 4 oz. bottle, plus 100 wooden stick Q-tips \$4.00  
Wooden stick Q-tips: \$4.50 per 500, \$8.50 per 1000.  
Blue Ribbon Coin Conditioner, 2 oz. bottle \$8.00  
Cast Iron Notary Machine, unconverted, for the do-it-yourselfer \$16.00  
Heavy Duty 28 lb. Kraft 2 x 2 coin envelopes, in gray, white, or brown:  
\$4.75 per 100, \$20 per 500, \$38 per 1000. (send SASE for samples)  
Cotton Liners, 100 percent soft cotton flannel interior; fit inside standard  
2 x 2 coin envelopes--package of 100 for \$27. (send SASE for sample)  
VIGOR 10x Triplet magnifying glass: very high quality optics--aplanatic, achromatic,  
with extra wide 13/16 inch lens. The best glass on the market to my knowledge  
for its size and price. \$52 each, with cord.  
Attribution Guide for Matron Head Cents, 1816-1835, approx. 37 pages \$5.00  
Add \$5 per order for shipping (\$5.50 western states).  
Shipping by UPS: You must give a street address

\* \* \* \* \*

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collectible obverse & reverse designs as well as colorful photographic  
plates of each coin featured in the 2004 EAC Provenance Exhibit at the San  
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\* \* \* \* \*

**JON LUSK, EAC #351**

1111W. Clark Rd.

Jon@Lusk.cc

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

(734) 484-4347

NumiStudy v3 is now available. For current v2 owners, it's \$99 and includes all picture additions.

NumiStudy + Noyes/Lusk DVD database has now been broken into subsets, priced as follows:

Half Cents \$695.

Sheldon Large Cents \$1695.

Colonials \$1695.

All include NumiStudy program v3.

The full database (7 DVD's of HC/Early/Middle/Late/Colonial) is still available for \$2995.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BILL NOYES, EAC #363**

Box 428

Monument Beach, MA 02553

Penny Prices **new** Second Edition (2005) is now available for **\$39** postpaid.

The Official Condition Census for U.S. Large Cents **new** 320+ pages large format is **\$79** postpaid

Note: This is similar to the "Brown Book" issued in 1999, but covers 1793-1839 with more CC entries per variety. Combines both the Noyes and Bland work for the past 30 years.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CHARLES A. BROWN, EAC #4459**

(360) 565-8379

chasdonna@juno.com

Late date large cents for sale from my private collection. All are conservatively graded, accurately described, and reasonably priced. List includes 57 coins, mostly Very Good to Very Fine. Please call or email for the list.

\* \* \* \* \*

**WILLIAM V. AMSHAY, EAC #3905**

P.O. Box 81151

Phoenix, AZ 85069-1151

Early American Coin Library For Sale

Just a few of the titles available (over 200 books and catalogs in all):

William Sheldon: <i>Early American Cents</i> , first edition.....	\$100.
Abe Kosoff: <i>United States Large Cents</i> .....	50.
Wayte Raymond: <i>United States Copper Coins</i> , first edition.....	20.
Dalton & Hamer: <i>The Provincial Token Coinage of the 18th Century</i> .....	\$100.
Sylvester Crosby: <i>Early Coins of America</i> .....	45.
B. Max Mehl: <i>U.S. Copper Cents 1816-1857</i> .....	10.

Also, many 19th and 20th century coin auction catalogues with emphasis on Large Cents (Elliot Woodward, Bangs & Co., Stack's, Bowers and Ruddy, and many others)

Write for Free Price List

**HENRY T. HETTGER, EAC #2349**

P.O. Box 2018  
(703) 979-1942

Arlington, VA 22202

1800 NC-2, Obverse rim cud, Good-4, Grellman card \$2250.

1802 NC-2, VG-7, close to VG-8, ex-Hettger, Rasmussen, Hettger,  
Rasmussen Sale lot 3276 \$3750.

Postage \$15 on either coin.

\* \* \* \* \*

**GENE ANDERSON, EAC # 4718** P.O. Box 9037 Paris, Texas 75461 or  
54anderson@suddenlink.net

Wanted for my personal collection:

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Any EAC counterstamped coin issued to an attendee of an EAC convention.

R. E. Bynum saloon token.

Paris, Texas transportation token Atwood-Coffee # 710 A Paris Railway Co.

\* \* \* \* \*

**David Johnson EAC #5235**  
dave4dawg@aol.com

213 Brookwood Drive

Chattanooga, TN 37411  
(423) 240-4277

1796 S-107 R5 VG7 Net G5 Average \$2,000

1798 S-159 XF 40 Net 20 Ave – CC #17. The Breen Plate Coin \$2,000

1798 S-166 XF 45 Net 40 Choice \$5,000

1798 S-184 VF 30 Net 25 Average \$900

1835 N-18 R4+ NGC F15 CC# 9 in Noyes VG 10 Net VG 10 A+

Ex: Reiver \$1500

1783 Washington token “Unity States”, Breen 1188, choice tan XF40 \$500

Photos available on request. please e-mail me. Shipping and insurance included.

\* \* \* \* \*

**TOM REYNOLDS, EAC #222** P.O. Box 390001 Omaha, NE 68139 (402) 895-3065  
 1796 S-81 R3 VG7 \$600 Liberty Cap. Brown with smooth surfaces. Typical striking weakness at center of reverse. A  
 1798 S-147 R5- AG3/BS1 \$100 Brown with smooth, glossy surfaces. A+  
 1800 S-199 R4 G6 \$675 Brown with smooth, glossy surfaces. Typical striking weakness on areas of the reverse. A+  
 1802 S-232 R1 VG8 \$225 Brown with smooth, glossy surfaces. Late die state with a rim cud over AT. A+  
 1803 S-243 R2 F12+ \$600 Stemless. Brown with smooth, glossy surfaces. A+  
 1803 S-245 R3 VG8 \$250 Brown with smooth, glossy surfaces. Late die state with a large rim cud over RICA. A+  
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## **EARLY COPPER AUCTIONS**

**Consignments for Auction:** I am accepting consignments for all McCawley & Grellman (M & G) auctions, including the annual EAC Sale and C-4 Sale (Colonial Coin Collector's Club), as well as auctions at commercial venues. Call for details and the options available.

**Late Date Large Cent Book:** *The Die Varieties of United States Large Cents 1840-1857* is available for immediate delivery. Every known die variety and die state of 1840-57 cents is fully described, with additional rarity information for rare die states. The book is a deluxe hardbound edition, 464 pages, over 100 photos. Price is \$100 postpaid. Autographed on request.

**BOB GRELLMAN, EAC #575** PO Box 161055 Altamonte Springs, FL 32716-1055  
 (407) 682-9592 (home) (407) 221-1654 (cell) Email: [ljefferys@cfl.rr.com](mailto:ljefferys@cfl.rr.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Jack H. Robinson, EAC #1308** P. O. Box 430 Centreville, Virginia 20122  
E-mail is JHRHTR@AOL.COM 703-830-8865 (24/7 number & has voice mail)

I have had many calls since CQR #18 was delivered at EAC '06. There have been less mistakes reported than expected, and the catcalls and jeering were more gentle than some times in the past.

However, the time has come for decisions, yet again. There has been very little significant activity in Early Copper - and, after many discussions with a lot of people - it is too early to issue CQR #19 for EAC '07. This combined with the real lack of requested/demanded/suggested changes from subscribers.

After considerable thought, especially considering my dwindling supply of CQR #18 on hand, the normal idea would be to publish CQR #19. Given the above, it just wouldn't be the "right" thing to do. So, I am having a CQR #18 reprint that should fill the need until CQR #19. I have made only one significant change, which is S-97, and about ten other very insignificant changes, mostly typos like two columns the same for G and VG, or such other.

Accordingly, for anyone that has purchased CQR #18, I am offering to E-mail a set of the changed pages to anyone that asks. Further, anyone wanting a copy of the CQR #18 Reprint should give me a call (completing library content, et al). Other than that, I am still looking for any corrections, enhancements, suggestions or anything else that can improve CQR.

Anyone that bought/paid for both CQR #18 and CQR #19 (\$75.00), I am willing to REFUND \$40.00, no questions asked. Otherwise, CQR #19 will be delivered as stated - When issued - Late 2007, or EAC '08, or....

The 18th EDITION of CQR in Spiral is \$40.00, Postpaid.

Hole-punched 8 1/2 x 11, in a 3-ring binder is \$40.00, Postpaid.

Checks should be made payable to Jack H. Robinson, or to "M&R".

New EAC members may deduct \$10.00 from either of the above, just provide your membership number (or indicate that it's pending) when you order.

The Superior Stamp and Coin, "Jack H. Robinson Sale Catalog", with Prices Realized is available, for \$50 \*\* POSTPAID.

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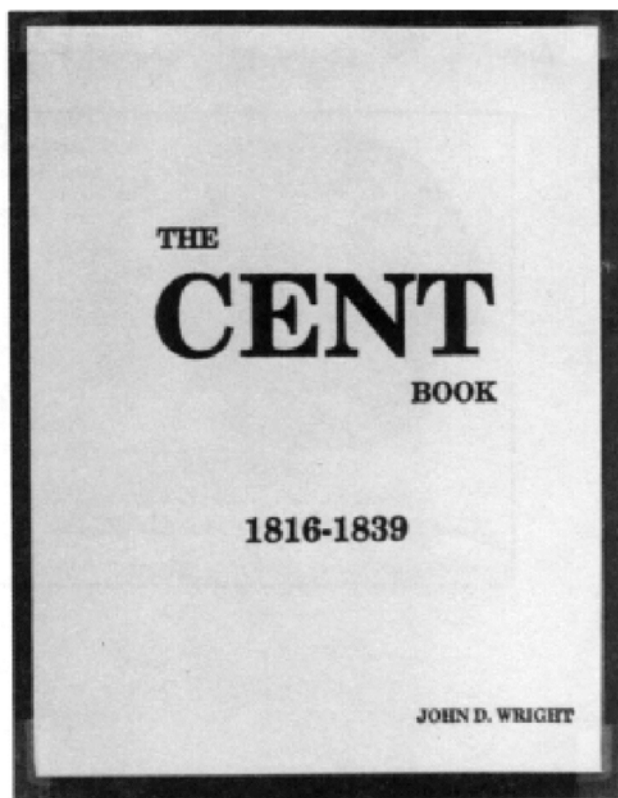
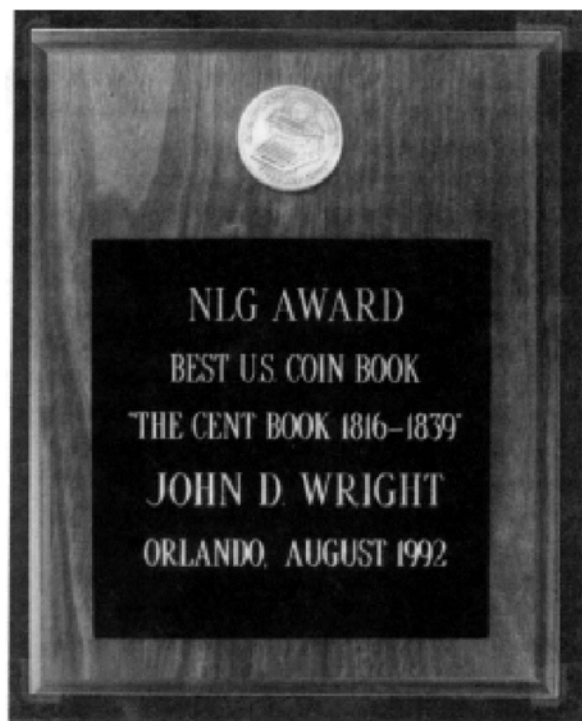
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**1794 Cohen 4, Breen 6. Liberty Cap Half Cent.** Photos courtesy of Bill Noyes and Jon Lusk.